

Appl. No. 10/708,943  
Amtd. dated February 14, 2007  
Reply to Office action of November 15, 2006

**Amendments to the Claims:**

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of defect root cause analysis comprising following steps:

- 5        providing a sample single die being processed through a plurality of semiconductor processes, wherein the sample single die comprises a plurality of defects;
- performing a defect inspection to detect sizes and locations of the plurality of defects;
- 10      performing a chemical state analysis of the sample single die;
- performing a mapping analysis according to a result of the chemical state analysis, wherein the mapping analysis comprises:
  - forming the defects of the single die into a defect pattern; and
  - comparing the defect pattern with a predetermined pattern on the sample single die; and
- 15      analyzing the root cause of the defects according to the comparison between the defect pattern and the predetermined pattern on the sample single die for determining the semiconductor process causing the defect; and
- modifying the semiconductor process causing the defects to reduce the number of defects in the single die.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1 further comprising performing a defect classification after finishing the defect inspection for judging a defect type of the defects and performing a corresponding chemical state analysis according to the defect type of the defects.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein an auger analysis is performed in the chemical state analysis when the defects are smaller than 0.2  $\mu$  m or are not single phase particles.

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Claim 4 (currently amended): The method of claim 3 wherein the auger analysis utilizes a scanning auger microscopy (SAM) or an auger electron spectroscopy (AES) to perform the chemical state analysis of the sample single die.

5 Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein an energy dispersive spectrometer (EDS) is utilized to detect in the chemical state analysis when the defects are equal to or larger than 0.2  $\mu$  m, single phase, or thick particles.

10 Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the chemical state analysis comprises a point scan analysis, delayer analysis, and depth profile analysis.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A method of defect root cause analysis comprising following steps:

15 providing a sample single die being processed through a plurality of semiconductor processes, wherein the sample single die comprises a plurality of defects;

performing a voltage contrast to identify locations of the defects;

cutting the sample single die with a focus ion beam (FIB) to expose a cross-section of the sample single die;

20 utilizing auger electrons to perform a chemical state analysis of the cross-section of the sample single die;

performing a mapping analysis according to a result of the chemical state analysis, wherein the mapping analysis comprises:

forming the defects into a defect pattern; and

25 comparing the defect pattern with a predetermined pattern on the sample single die; and

judging a root cause of the defect generation according to the comparison between the defect pattern and the predetermined pattern on the sample single die for determining the semiconductor process causing the defect; and

30 modifying the semiconductor process causing the defects to reduce the number of

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defects in the single die.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The method of claim 7 wherein the method utilizes a scanning auger microscopy (SAM) or an auger electron spectroscopy (AES) to 5 perform a chemical state analysis of the cross-section of the sample single die.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 7 wherein the chemical state analysis comprises a point scan analysis.

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